2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Summary record of the 12th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 19 May 2010, at 5 p.m.

President: Mr. Cabactulan ..... (Philippines)

Contents

Reports of the Main Committees (*continued*)

General debate (*continued*)

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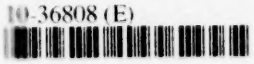

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The meeting was called to order at 5.20 p.m.

Reports of the Main Committees (*continued*)

Progress reports of the Main Committees (continued)

1. **The President** invited the Chairmen of the three Main Committees to inform the Conference how their work was progressing.

2. **Mr. Yelchenko** (Ukraine), Chairman of Main Committee II, recalled that the Committee had submitted its first draft report, contained in document NPT/CONF.2010/MC.II/CRP.1, for review by all delegations on Friday, 14 May 2010. The Committee had convened a plenary meeting to consider the draft report on Monday, 17 May. On that occasion, he had invited all delegations to provide comments on the draft and to continue working constructively towards achieving consensus on the text during the current week so that the Committee could convey the results of its deliberations to the Conference on Friday, 21 May. During the following plenary meeting, held on 18 May, delegations had had an opportunity to comment on the text and to propose amendments to it. He noted that the subsidiary body was also expected to make a relevant contribution to the Committee's draft report.

3. In the coming days the Committee would continue its efforts to address all proposals made by delegations and groups of States. However, some mutually exclusive proposals would need to be reconciled in a revised draft in order to forge a consensus. He would therefore circulate the revised draft report of Main Committee II on Thursday, 20 May, and had arranged for the Committee to continue its deliberations in a plenary meeting to be held on Friday, 21 May. In that connection, he called on all delegations to work together constructively to facilitate the successful completion of the Committee's work within the time remaining.

4. **Mr. Nakane** (Japan), Chairman of Main Committee III, said that, since delivering his previous progress report on Friday, 14 May 2010, the Committee had held three meetings, during which focused discussions had continued on the remaining two items, namely technical cooperation and multilateral nuclear approaches, including nuclear fuel supply assurances.

5. Furthermore, on Monday, 17 May, the Committee had begun consideration of its draft report contained in document NPT/CONF.2010/MC.III/CRP.2, which had been distributed to all delegations on Friday, 14 May. It had also just begun negotiations on the text of the draft report section by section. To date, the Committee had received comments on some 30 paragraphs, as well as a large number of proposed amendments. It would therefore need at least one more meeting to complete the first round of consideration of the draft. On the basis of the comments and proposals received, he intended to submit a revised text to the Committee shortly. In that connection, he stressed that the States parties should be given ample time to bring their negotiations to a satisfactory conclusion.

6. The Committee's subsidiary body had also held three meetings since he had submitted his first progress report. During those meetings the subsidiary body had discussed the universality of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and withdrawal from the Treaty, under agenda item 16 (e), as well as institutional issues pursuant to the decision to include those issues in agenda item 17. Discussions on institutional issues indicated that there remained different views on the proposals put forward by Canada regarding official institutional support for the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Chairman of the subsidiary body had therefore asked delegations to complete bilateral consultations in order to produce an agreed text for inclusion in the Committee's draft report.

7. Furthermore, following consideration by the subsidiary body of the text of its draft report, the Chairman had arranged for interested parties to engage in informal consultations with a view to reaching consensus on an agreed text.

8. *The meeting was suspended at 5.25 p.m. and resumed at 5.30 p.m.*

9. **Mr. Chidyausiku** (Zimbabwe), Chairman of Main Committee I, said that the Committee had held two meetings since Friday, 14 May 2010, to look at its first draft report, contained in document NPT/CONF.2010/MC.I/CRP.2. During the course of those meetings, individual delegations and Groups of States had submitted their oral and written observations for further consideration. On the basis of the views expressed, he hoped to complete a revised report shortly that would contain consensus language acceptable to all States parties.

10. **The President**, summing up, said that it was clear that the draft texts by the Chairmen of the Main

Committees had been generally well received and that their initial consideration had resulted in a considerable number of proposals for amendments from individual delegations and groups of States. He was encouraged by the serious efforts under way and urged all three Main Committees to finalize the agreed language in their reports so that the Drafting Committee could begin its work.

General debate *(continued)*

11. **Mr. Duncan** (United Kingdom), explaining that the formation of a new national Government had prevented his delegation from taking the floor earlier, recalled that the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference had outlined 13 practical steps which the States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty had agreed to implement in order to meet their commitments under article VI of the Treaty. With the exception of steps 7 and 8, which were not applicable to the United Kingdom, his delegation wished to provide an update on the progress made by his country in implementing each of the steps.

12. With regard to steps 1 and 2, he said that the United Kingdom had signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1996 and had ratified the Treaty in 1998. It had a voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing in place and had not carried out any nuclear test explosions since 1991.

13. In line with step 3, the United Kingdom had repeatedly called for the immediate start of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a fissile material cut-off treaty. Furthermore, it had put in place a voluntary moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and had not produced such material since 1995.

14. With respect to step 4, he said that the United Kingdom supported the establishment of a working group on nuclear disarmament as part of the programme of work adopted by consensus at the Conference on Disarmament in 2009 and he called on the Conference on Disarmament to approve a programme of work for 2010 on that basis.

15. Concerning the principle of irreversibility reflected in step 5, he noted that the United Kingdom had not reversed any of its nuclear disarmament measures. Moreover, it had adopted a single delivery system with a single warhead design and a single launch platform.

16. With regard to step 6, the United Kingdom had set out its unequivocal commitment to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons in its national statements and multilateral declarations.

17. In accordance with step 9, the United Kingdom had hosted a conference in September 2009 for the five nuclear-weapon States to discuss confidence-building measures towards nuclear disarmament. The conference had brought together for the first time nuclear scientists and senior policymakers from the nuclear-weapon States to consider the confidence-building, verification and compliance challenges associated with achieving further progress towards disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as the steps to address those challenges. The United Kingdom had also sponsored independent academic research on the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons and global security in a world with low numbers of nuclear weapons.

18. Also in line with step 9, the United Kingdom had reduced the number of its operationally available warheads to fewer than 160 and had also reduced the explosive power of its nuclear arsenal by around 75 per cent since the end of the cold war. It was transparent about its fissile materials holdings and operationally available warhead numbers and had produced historical records of its defence holdings of both plutonium and highly enriched uranium. It did not possess any non-strategic nuclear weapons and had significantly reduced the operational status of its nuclear-weapon system, which did not target any State. The United Kingdom had publicly stated its policy on negative security assurances; had signed and ratified the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga and Pelindaba; and stood ready to include its nuclear arsenal in broader multilateral disarmament negotiations.

19. Pursuant to step 10, the United Kingdom had placed 4.4 tons of its excess military fissile material under European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) safeguards and had made that material subject to inspection by IAEA. The United Kingdom had also announced in 1998 that it would cease exercising its right to withdraw fissile material from safeguarded stocks for nuclear weapons.

20. The United Kingdom subscribed to the principle, embodied in step 11, of general and complete

disarmament under effective international control. His country had a strong record of fulfilling its non-nuclear and general disarmament commitments.

21. With regard to step 12, he recalled that the Government White Paper entitled "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent", dated December 2006, set out his country's nuclear doctrine and current posture. The United Kingdom also provided regular reports in its national statements to the NPT Preparatory Committees and Review Conferences.

22. Lastly, with respect to step 13, he said that the United Kingdom was conducting research on the technical and non-technical aspects of verifying nuclear warhead dismantlement through a trilateral project with Norway and VERTIC, a non-governmental verification organization. Their work included authenticating warheads, monitoring storage facilities and providing access to nuclear sites without compromising national security.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.